

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Flu shots still available

(November 12, 2002) – The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has named Nevada as one of 14 states reporting sporadic cases of influenza-like illness. The flu shot clinics offered by the Clark County Health District have experienced a lower volume of people seeking the shot this year and residents, especially those at risk of experiencing complications if they contract the disease, are urged to get their shot.

“People may have delayed getting the immunization this year because they have been assured there is plenty of vaccine. However, we are starting to see more cases of influenza-like illness and now is the time to get the flu shot in order to ensure you are fully protected during the peak of flu season,” said Dr. Donald Kwalick, chief health officer for the Clark County Health District.

While anti-viral drugs are now available to treat confirmed cases of the flu, the flu shot is still the most effective way to prevent the disease. The flu is a contagious disease that is caused by the influenza virus. It attacks the respiratory tract in humans (nose, throat, and lungs). The flu is different from a cold. It usually comes on suddenly and may include these symptoms: fever, headache, tiredness (can be extreme), dry cough, sore throat, nasal congestion and body aches. Most people who get the flu will recover in 1 to 2 weeks, but some people will develop life-threatening complications (such as pneumonia) as a result of the flu. An average of about 20,000 people per year in the United States die from the flu, and 114,000 per year have to be admitted to the hospital as a result of influenza.

Flu shots are available at the following health district locations on Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.:

(more)

- Ravenholt Public Health Center, 625 Shadow Lane
- East Las Vegas Public Health Center, 560 N. Nellis Boulevard
- Henderson Public Health Center, 129 W. Lake Mead Drive
- North Las Vegas Public Health Center, 1820 E. Lake Mead Boulevard

People eligible for free vaccine through Medicare or Medicaid must present an insurance card. For those not eligible under their insurance plan the cost is \$15 for the flu immunization. For more information, please call the health district immunization office at 702-383-1351 or 702-383-1352.

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